

Message Text

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54

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

SCS-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 H-03

INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 SPC-03 PRS-01 RSC-01

SS-20 USIE-00 USSS-00 SY-10 FAA-00 DRC-01 (ISO)W

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O 201310Y DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8360

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4429

MADRID FOR ASST SECRETARY SISCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS XF

SUBJ: ROME ATROCITY - LUFTHANSA HIJACKING

REF: A. STATE 247143; B. KUWAIT 4425

1. FONMIN SHAIKH SABAH RECEIVED ME AFTER LUNCH HE HOSTED FOR JAPANESE DEPUTY PM MIKI AT SHERATORN HOTEL DEC 20. I CONVEYED TO HIM MESSAGE CONTAINED STATE REFTEL IN FULL IN ARABIC, BEARING DOWN PARTICULARLY HARD ON NEED TO DEAL VERY STERNLY WITH PERPETRATORS OF OUTRAGE.

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2. SHAIK SABAH SAID HE APPRECIATED SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPORTANCE OF USG MESSAGE. FIRST, HOWEVER, HE SAID, HE WISHED SAY THAT WORDS COULD NOT ADEQUATELY EXPRESS HIS SHOCK AND HORROR, AND THAT OF GOK, AT THIS INHUMAN CRIME. ALL VICTIMS, MOROCCAN AMERICAN AND OTHERS WERE EQUALLY INNOCENT VICTIMS OF THIS SENSELESS OUTRAGE. POLITICS, DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PEOPLES AND NATIONS HAD NO PLACE IN CONSIDERATION OF THIS ATROCITY. THIS WAS CASE OF PURE BUTCHERY WHICH COULD NOT POSSIBLY BE CONSTRUED AS BENEFITING ARAB CAUSE OR PEACE IN ANY WAY WHATEVER. FONMIN ASKED ME CONVEY GOK'S AND HIS OWN PROFOUND REGRET OVER LOSS OF AMERICAN AS WELL AS ALL OTHER LIVES.

3. FONMIN WENT ON TO SAY GOK HAD CAREFULLY STUDIED ALTERNATIVE COURSES OF ACTION, IN CONSULTATION WITH MOROCCANS. IDEA OF PROSECUTION IN KUWAIT WAS REJECTED, SINCE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF CRIME -- THE KILLINGS -- DID NOT OCCUR IN KUWAIT. HERE, CRIMINALS COULD BE TRIED ONLY FOR THEIR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES AFTER ENTERING KUWAIT FOR WHICH THEY WOULD SUFFER MUCH TOO LIGHT A PUNISHMENT.

4. GOK AND GOM HAD THEREFORE AGREED, FONMIN SAID, TO TURN MURDERERS OVER TO PLO RPT PLO WHICH IS OFFICIAL MEMBER OF ARAB LEAGUE. PLO HAD BEEN TOLD CATEGORICALLY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT MOROCCANS AND KUWAITIS, AT LEAST, EXPECT HARSHTEST POSSIBLE PUNISHMENT METED OUT. PLO HAS ALSO BEEN TOLD THAT FAILURE TO PUNISH CRIMINALS ADEQUATELY COULD SERIOUSLY DAMAGE RELATIONS BETWEEN GOK AND GOM AND PLO. FONMIN ADDED HE WOULD NOT AT ALL EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY PERPETRATORS WILL BE CONDEMNED TO DEATH, POSSIBLY EVEN PUBLICLY EXECUTED.

5. I SAID SPEAKING PERSONALLY I HAD TO WONDER WHETHER PLO REALLY WOULD METE OUT PUNISHMENT CRIMINALS DESERVED. FONMIN REPLIED VERY FIRMLY "THEY'D BETTER; THESE CRIMES WHICH HURT PALESTINIANS AND ALL ARABS WORSE THAN ANYONE ELSE MUST BE STOPPED".

6. RE PARA TWO REF A, I TOUCHED BASE WITH ALL THREE COLLEAGUES, NONE OF WHOM HAD YET RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS AT TIME MY MEETING WITH FONMIN. KUWAITI CONTACTS WITH MOROCCANS HAVE OBVIOUSLY BEEN HANDLED ELSEWHERE. GERMAN IS ONLY ONE SO FAR WHO KNOWS CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBSTANCE OUR DEMARCHE.

7. COMMENT: KUWAITIS ARE OBVIOUSLY SHAKEN BY THIS LATEST TERRORIST OPERATION AND MY IMPRESSION IS KUWAITIS EXPECT, ALONG WITH MOST OTHER ARAB STATES, TO TRY HOLD PLO'S FEET TO THE FIRE THIS TIME. STOLTZFUS

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NNN

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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